

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID PLATT
RALL

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about some distressing recent developments in the wake of the tragic death on September 28 of environmental medicine pioneer Dr. David Platt Rall.

Dr. Rall tragically died late last month from injuries sustained in a car accident while vacationing in France. His wife, Gloria Monteiro Rall, was badly injured in the accident, but is recovering. I know the thoughts and prayers of many of us go out to her and Dr. Rall's entire family.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Rall was a giant in the world of science. His credentials are long, but the highlights include running the federal National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) simultaneously, Assistant Surgeon General in the U.S. Public Health Service, scientific counselor to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, chair of the World Health Organization's Program on Chemical Safety, foreign secretary of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, board member of the Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning and the Environmental Defense Fund. He had conducted breakthrough cancer research early in his career at the National Cancer Institute and he was husband, father and a grandfather.

Kenneth Olden, the current director of both NIEHS and NTP, calls Dr. Rall, "a pioneer, who established the credibility of our two federal environmental health organizations and set the paces. We are standing on his broad shoulders."

This man accomplished far more than many of us will manage to do in our lives. And, all of this work was devoted to advancing the cause of human health—and millions of people are the better for it.

It is a sad sign of our times, Mr. Speaker, when the death of such an individual becomes an invitation for cheap political attack to those who found his brilliance and accomplishments threatening.

One such person is chemical industry lobbyist and Cato Institute Adjunct Scholar Steven Milloy, who turned Dr. Rall's tragic death into what can only be seen as a callous, self-promotional opportunity.

Mr. Milloy runs a web site that features a cartoon of himself in devil costume, complete with horns, and tail. He calls himself the "Junkman," and junk certainly seems to be his main product. His self-appointed job is to denigrate the research of public interest groups and serious, accomplished academics.

But the Junkman reached a new low when on October 2, he posted a mocking "Obituary of the Day," on Dr. Rall's death, saying, and I quote, "Scratch one junk scientist".

The Cato Institute was alerted to this language by an outraged public interest group. President Edward H. Crane responded with—what seemed at the time—class and dignity, saying Milloy had an "inexcusable lapse in

judgment and civility" with his "appallingly offensive comments."

In the face of that unequivocal rebuke, what did Mr. Milloy do? He refused to apologize, then posted even more vitriol the following day. His web site on October 12 said, "As far as David Rall is concerned, he was a bad guy when he was alive . . ." and that, "Death did not improve his track record."

Mr. Speaker, if this language isn't outrageous enough, the response of the Cato Institute to this second round of remarks was worse. When 11 heads of public health, consumer and environmental groups wrote Mr. Crane to sever his ties to Mr. Milloy, Mr. Crane chose not to respond. When Dr. Rall's surviving brother and two environmental group heads wanted to meet with Mr. Crane, Mr. Crane flatly refused. His rationale? The offensive web material had come down and he thought the matter was "closed."

The matter, Mr. Speaker, is far from closed. There are still no apologies to the Rall family, and Cato has taken no position on this second round of highly offensive comments. Never mind that the "junkman's" junk is out in the press now, posted on the Internet for friends and loved ones of Dr. Rall to read—along with the rest of the world.

The Cato Institute, with its silence and inaction tells media, the public and this Congress that Cato accepts this behavior and will reward the "Junkman" with a continued institutional home—no matter how badly it denigrates someone else, no matter how great the person who is being denigrated.

I call on the Cato Institute to show the same class and dignity they showed when first alerted to this situation and take additional, stronger action. Doing so would send an important message that while someone is free to say what he or she wants—however offensive—there are consequences for such actions. This is an especially libertarian view that I am sure the Cato Institute can understand.

IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT JULIUS
NYERERE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, as the world mourns the death of President Julius Nyerere, I wish to send the deepest condolences to the people of Tanzania.

For many years, the world has come to know President Julius Nyerere as a pioneer for change. He was committed to his people and was a leader whose only ambition was to build a strong nation and a solid future for Africa. That is why he was a great statesman and a favored son of millions of Africans.

President Nyerere fought for his nation's independence and was elected to lead Tanganyika in 1961. In 1964, President Nyerere peacefully united Tanganyika with the island of Zanzibar, forming the Republic of Tanzania. He served as the leader of that nation for nearly twenty-five years. A proud father of a post-colonial nation, he worked to translate that pride and success to all of Africa.

All righteous people admired him, for he was a fearless pursuer of justice. He stood tall and spoke up against African strongmen and brutal dictators like Uganda's Idi Amin and the minority rule in South Africa.

President Nyerere voluntarily stepped down in 1985. A world leader, he built a solid foundation for his nation so that it can peacefully grow and flourish. He returned to his modest farm, but remained a powerful voice for peace and a relentless ambassador for the needs of Africans and the African continent.

He died at the age of 77 while trying to meditate an end to the war in Burundi. At the time of his death, President Nyerere was engaged in his favorite activity—finding a way to lead Africa on a journey of lasting prosperity and peace. For all he has given to his nation, his beloved continent and its people, and the world, I am certain that his legend will live on forever. Having had the good fortune to work with the 9th Congressional District African and Caribbean Advisory Committee, I know that his influence has been broadly felt and am hopeful that his spirit will guide us in the future.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. BEREN

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Robert M. Beren, a benefactor whose generosity in Houston was recently recognized by the renaming of The Hebrew Academy at 5435 S. Braeswood. The school is now named Robert M. Beren Academy, in recognition of Mr. Beren's generous philanthropic contributions.

An oil and gas producer from Wichita, Kansas, Mr. Beren's ties to Houston run deep. His Houston grandchildren, Irene Beren Jefferson, Elizabeth Beren Jefferson, and Alexander Beren Jefferson benefit from the education at what will henceforward be known as Robert M. Beren Academy. His eldest daughter, Nancy T. Beren, and her husband, Larry S. Jefferson, M.D., are both extremely active in the Houston community. Following in her father's footsteps, Ms. Beren contributes her time and energy to projects and organizations that benefit children and families. It is especially fitting that Ms. Beren recently served for 2 years as President of Robert M. Beren Academy and that Dr. Jefferson currently serves on its Board of Education.

Robert M. Beren's penchant for giving revolves around two principles: his philosophy of reinforcing a strong Jewish background and his belief in an excellent secular education. By supporting Houston's only modern orthodox Jewish day school, Mr. Beren promotes both of these ideals.

Mr. Beren's own educational history illustrates his love of academic challenge. After graduating from Marietta High School in Marietta, Ohio, he went on to graduate cum laude from Harvard College with a B.A. in Economics. He then graduated with high distinction from Harvard's Graduate School of Business Administration. In addition to pursuing his personal studies, Robert Beren distinguished himself by serving our country as a soldier in the